(c) if not, what are the reasons for not accepting IV Pay Commission's recommendation for grant of ex-gratia pension to both surviving and deceased Provident Fund retirees and restriction of this benefit only to dependents of deceased retirees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Pay Commission had recommended ex-gratia payment of Rs. 300 p.m. only to those who retired with pay upto Rs. 500 p.m. and an option to those who retired with a pay exceeding Rs. 500 to come over to pension scheme. Since the CPF retirees had been given repeated options while in service and ex-gratia payment to only those getting a pay upto Rs. 500 p.m. would be discriminatory and any decision to pay ex-gratia would have repercussions elsewhere, the Government did not accept the recommendations of the Pay Commission to extend the benefit to living CPF retirees. However, ex-gratia payment to families of deceased CPF retirees was extended on sympathetic grounds.

On recepit of representations from individuals and Pensioners' organisations, the proposal to grant ex-gratia pension to pre-1986 CPF retirees was carefully reconsidered but it had not been found possible to agree to any such proposal on account of various considerations including financial constraints.

Absorption of surplus census staff against Class-III posts

522. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1721-A given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of the instructions issued to absorb surplus census saff against the vacant class III posts in various Departments/Boards of Punjab Government, not a single candidate from this surplus Census staff has been absorbed so far;

(b) whether the departments of Planning, PSIPA, and Labour Commissioner, Punjab have recruited outside candidates ignoring the above-mentioned instructions;

(c) whether it is also a fact that former Governor of Punjab had passed the orders dated 31st December, 1990 for absorption of surplus staff immediately against vacant posts in various Departments; and

(d) the reasons for not complying with above-mentioned orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Department of Planning, PSIPA and Labour Commissioner, Punjab have considered the surplus Census staff alongwith others for recruitment to Class III posts. Four persons from amongst the surplus Census staff have been selected by the Department of Planning. Outside candidates were recruited by these authorities only in the event of the surplus Census staff being adjudged unsuitable.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to part (b) above.

Pollution of the Desang river by HFC Namrup, Assam

523. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, Namrup, Assam, has polluted the water of Desang river and the environment of the neighbouring areas since a long time; and

(b) whether Government are aware that in spite of repeated requests by the State Governmest to this effect, the HFC authorities are not paying any attention to these requests and still continue in pouring chemicals and other materials into the river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Namrup unit of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation dis-